

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02732 232032Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----004675 232059Z /72
P 232025Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8216

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 02732

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THREE SEALED ENVELOPES FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY OF MASSACHUSETTS ADDRESSED, RESPECTIVELY, TO LEONID BREZHNEV, PROCURATOR GENERAL ROMAN RUDENKO AND PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE EDWARD KUZNETSOV. BEFORE DELIVERING THE LETTERS TO BREZHNEV AND RUDENKO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR USUAL PRACTICE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING WITH CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS. WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF THE KUZNETSOV LETTER. WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, WE'LL RETURN IT TO YOU FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE.

2. KREPS VISIT. WITH REFERENCE TO STRANGE USDOC MESSAGE (#3441) ON ADVANCE PUBLICITY FOR KREPS VISIT, WE ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT WAS AS SURPRISED AS WE. WE OF COURSE CANNOT MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR AN UNNAMED PARTY (EVEN THE TELEGRAM WAS UNSIGNED), AND WE WONDER WHAT PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED BY THE VISIT OF THE PRESS
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ADVANCE MAN. ASSUME YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ENSURE THAT MESSAGES CONCERNING THE KREPS VISIT ARE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE AND THAT CONTENTS ARE VETTED FOR SUBSTANCE.

3. JIM GALLAGHER OF CHICAGO TRIBUNE IS ABOUT TO BREAK STORY ON US/SOVIET TRADE WHICH, JUDGING BY WHAT HE HAS

TOLD US, WILL BE CRITICAL OF JACKSON/VANIK AMENDMENT AS HAVING FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE. CURIOUSLY, GALLAGHER SAYS STORY WAS INSPIRED BY SENATOR STEVENSON'S ATTEMPTS HERE TO EXPLAIN HIS OWN AMENDMENT. (HE APPEARED NOT TO BE AWARE THAT SENATOR JACKSON MIGHT BE COMING HERE.) GALLAGHER APPEARS TO FEEL THAT REPEAL OF J/V WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON BILATERAL TRADE, ASIDE FROM MODEST STIMULATION OF US EXPORTS. IF GALLAGHER FILES STORY AS HE HAS INDICATED, YOU CAN ASSURE ALL CONCERNED THAT WE DID NOT INSPIRE IT.

4. REGARDING SENATOR JACKSON'S VISIT, DO YOU HAVE MORE DETAILS? AT LAST BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING I WAS ASKED IF SENATOR IS COMING ON BASIS LATIMES REPORT OUT OF WASHINGTON. I TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT WE HAVE NOTHING OFFICIAL FROM WASHINGTON, BUT THAT SOME SOVIETS HAD RECENTLY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY. IF SENATOR'S PLANS ARE FIRM, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GET NEWS THROUGH REGULAR CHANNEL ALONG WITH INDICATION WHETHER TRIP CAN BE MENTIONED TO PRESS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS.

5. YOUR LETTER OF FEB. 16 JUST RECEIVED LATE TODAY. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT YOUR INTERLOCUTORS ARE INDEED OUT IN FRONT OF OURS HERE ON PRINCIPAL ISSUE DISCUSSED. AS BEST I CAN JUDGE, ISSUE IS QUIESCENT HERE SO LONG AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PATTERN DOES NOT CHANGE AND WE CONTINUE REPRESENTATIONS AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES. NOBODY HERE IS SUGGESTING STRONGER ACTION AND I DOUBT THERE WOULD BE MUCH BACKING FOR SOME OF FAR-OUT IDEAS EXPRESSED. AT MOMENT, MORE ATTENTION IS BEING DEVOTED TO SUBJECT IN FOURTH PARA OF PAGE 2 OF MEMCON, PARTICULARLY PNG POLICY, AND SPECIFIC IDEA ADVANCED OF PROPORTIONAL ACTION HAS STRONG AND VIRTUALLY UNIVERSAL BACKING. IDEA IN FINAL PARA HAS LITTLE MERIT SINCE WE DON'T GET A READING AT GROUND LEVEL EVEN AT PRESENT SITE. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DO SO WHEN BASIC STRUCTURE GOES UP, HOWEVER, BEFORE WE FINISH OFF BUILDING AND MOVE IN. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW02732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0783
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780223/aaaaasti.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 565c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3506641
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/565c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014